A Decade of Conspiracy - From Dallas to Watergate: Donald Freed (1973)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JmUu_dGM-A (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JmUu_dGM-A)

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ORIGINAL: https://www.pacificaradioarchives.org/recording/bc1642
Talk on the government's coverup of covert domestic activities from the time of John F. Kennedy's assassination to the Watergate affair.

Recorded at the First Congregational Church, Palo Alto, California and broadcast on KPFA, 7 Dec. 1973.

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tonight we present don freed who is a professor of linguistics he is also a playwright and has done many plays as well as books some of you may have heard of the play inquest which was a play about the rosenbergs he's also done a book called agony in new haven which was the story of bobby seal and erica huggins trial his latest book the glass house tapes is about the new police industrial complex and finally there is the movie executive action and don was the co-author of that script and tonight he'd like to talk to you about what happened in dallas and how it relates to watergate don freed [Music] thank you very much and to all those who organized this evening so well bring greetings from my co-author mark lane who is involved in the wounded knee trials and uh he asked me to make clear that we disassociate ourselves from the statements of the producer and distributor of the film executive action that it was quotes pure entertainment close quotes and not meant to have any political impact we wrote the original scenario and the novel remnants of which remain in i suppose what is after all is said and done a unique american film um in order to give a kind of a signal

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um in order to give a kind of a signal of hope that the decade of conspiracy and lying might be drawing to an end and that the potential for intervention on the part of citizens uh was great and we uh in our east coast uh tour recently completed we asked the people going to the lobby of the theaters playing the film with their own simple handmade petition demanding independent investigation of the assassinations of the 1960s and opening of the archives and so on and so we feel the film is terribly important though there is much more that could be in it tonight we're going to show you a one-minute film clip that was refused by the flagship stations of nbc cbs and abc in new york uh and the rationalization that it was too violent when there's no violence in it there's no violence in the film in fact except for the assassination which is underplayed purposely um but uh it gives us an insight into the extreme sensitivity of the media on this subject as indeed their sensitivity is extreme on what is called the watergate affair operation gemstone when it reaches the issue of violence organized state violence and uh after showing that i want to show a rare copy of the zapruder film a bootleg edition with a narration by dan rather and i'll have something to say about that because it's extremely revealing on several levels and then i have a piece of tape from an almost unheard of interview with lee

harvey oswald in the summer of 1963 wherein he makes a startling slip of the tongue that's the forensic material for the evening uh before getting into that and then talking about the dialectic between dallas and the watergate

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watergate uh and leaving a lot of time for questions and discussion i i would like to face head on the the the issue as it's now drawn about the right to know and the motives you remember that those first people who stood on point to defy the warren commission conclusions the official mythology were called scavengers and buffs and nuts and madmen and opportunists and whereas those who wrote books supporting the warren commission were called historians um but they were alone they had to defend themselves on every side uh careers were destroyed or there were attempts to destroy careers of people like mark lane and it was reminiscent of uh the picture george orwell painted uh when he said there was truth and there was untruth but if you clung to the truth even against the whole world you were not mad that was the condition uh just a decade ago [Music] later the researchers came along historians now the novelists the filmmakers and it's now a comfortable position to occupy the vast majority of the american people up somewhere over the 90 percentile now reject the one lone nut theory of the warren commission it is still stubbornly maintained however by the leading influence makers in the media and educational complex and that is why it is such a dangerous um symbol of the entire lack of credibility not just on the politics of the 1960s from dallas through the vietnam war to watergate but on the whole entire question of secrecy on the entire question of

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secrecy on the entire question of whether one can trust one's senses and whether or not official mythology can be defied and whether or not the there is a crisis in the in the whole process of communication sense perception and learning theory that flows from the stubborn maintenance by the state of an official myth now the material you're going to see in here has been suppressed and none of it exists for the public what we're going to show is a bootleg edition just a 22nd piece of film of the actual assassination and i i think we do well to talk about what the implications are for educated people vis-a-vis these uh traumatic events of the 1960s our political right to know i understand to be a political abstraction of what the greeks called on nancy the biological need to know the right to know is a constitutional right which may or may not be exercised to our own peril but the need to know according to the greeks and i think it's true is not something over which you have any control any more than you do hunger or sleep or sexuality and you defy your need to know the public defies its need to know at the cost of physical psychological and philosophical survival this need to know is displayed in a kind of endo psychic compulsion on the part of the public who has made this film executive action number one in the nation as of last week and the film is not citizen kane or z and the reviews are controversial and negative but the crowds are enormous and it can only be explained one way a biological need to know an obsession

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biological need to know an obsession a therapy in a nation which is bound hand and foot with lies in a nation whose name has become the name of a nervous disease the need to know and it's the vicissitudes of that need our political right to know and i think that's basically the theme now what is the answer the new york times on the 10th anniversary uh i ran an uh an editorial on the op-ed page uh with a familiar kind of reductive crackpot psychologizing of this entire need the people who doubt the warren commission we are told like those who hysterically demand the resignation of president nixon are in the last stages of oedipus complex the president stands for the father and there is therefore a vulgar uh compulsion to cut him down and that's what's really behind this doubt of the warren commission if the president was killed if one one lone nut had done it why then any of us were capable and we therefore identify with the assassin and so we erect an elaborate uh conspiracy to play off against the trauma of the assassination of the president well we're familiar with this reasoning bruno betlheim the psychoanalyst told us during the vietnam war remember that the protests had nothing to do with moral or political or human revulsion with that slaughter but instead it was

a rebellion without a cause it was uh a knee-jerk kind of uh response against the fathers of the state who knew better and were prosecuting the war and that was the meaning of the student uh lead protests of the 1960s uh the precursor to that um incisive piece of analysis is uh betelheim's theory of the genocide of

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betelheim's theory of the genocide of world war ii that the jews and the other victims of the concentration camps were paralyzed by masochistic passivity and that is offered seriously as a rationale for the aberrations of dealey plaza at milai at watergate all aberrations no pattern and that we are called paranoid and now of course is up about to 90 of the public but then again the american public is notoriously conspiracy minded and it's an aberration lee harvey oswald was to dallas what william callie was to vietnam these are not aberrations and the war was not an aberration and watergate is not an aberration that is simply official mythology and it's a scandal so stale and so stereotyped that no serious person outside of the leading circles of the educational establishment and the media can maintain it so there it is the need to know now we're not told in these editorials anything about the oedipus complex of the conspirators or the very picture of oedipus complex as a matter of fact when you are asked to accept official rubbage as an article of faith we were told by the new york times when the war and commission report came out that it was the greatest investigation in the history of the world and you remember attorney general klein dean's telling us that the watergate investigation was the greatest investigation since the warren commission and that anybody who doubts these investigations is a some kind of scavenger with uh some kind of ominous panoply of motivation well edipus complex simply is

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well edipus complex simply is the infantal acceptance of the lies of power that's oedipus complex not protest against the war in vietnam or the investigation of the assassinations of watergate those are the philosophical terms then of the issue now let's have our material and then i'll try to talk about what i call the secret government and the span from dealey plaza to the watergate this first is a one minute uh coming attraction banned from television at this point in time taking executive action in a drama where startling fiction challenges and established facts we're all experiencing my operations you take your chances and you get paid for the damn well a story built on a wrong investigation putting together the missing pieces of the most important murder of our century are you trying to tailgate people the the explanation for keeping that off of television that is too violent too violent

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from the same people who brought you vietnam nightly now john will let me know when the uh this next film has to be it's the focus is bad the sound is bad but let me tell you what it is dan rather a young dallas reporter came to national prominence in reporting on the assassination and he saw this a pruder film a film taken by an amateur photographer abraham supruder from in front of the president's limousine and from exactly the same direction obviously that the fatal bullet comes from a grassy knoll with a picket fence and dan rather watches it and then he reports to his radio audience what he's seen there are two significant errors one he says you see governor connolly turning and you see governor conley hit by a bullet well of course you remember that the warren commission which had to account for three bullets and no more one that hit the curb which they finally took cognizance of after a man insisted for eight months that it bounced off the curb and injured his cheek one that hit uh president kennedy fatally and one that supposedly went through president kennedy's back up and out his neck into governor connolly's back out his chest into his wrist out his wrist into his thigh and was found in pristine condition on the gurney at parkland hospital but you see the greatest experts in the world can only reload that virtually inoperable italian rifle at a rate of 2.5 seconds per shot so therefore only three shots could have been fired otherwise there would have had to be more than one shooter and says the warren commission if you reject the magic bullet theory of the bullet 399 that went through everybody without losing any lead then you must reject the conclusions of one lone nut propounded

by the warren commission that magic bullet theory by the way is the brainchild of arlen specter of philadelphia who has just joined mr buzhart in the nick of time to represent the president and i assume evolve a theory of the tapes

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evolve a theory of the tapes that may include people from outer space if i understand mr hague's allusions to sinister forces they're therefore making our position obligatory that it's one lone nut um now you will hear dan rather describe what you obviously see that governor connolly is hit by a separate bullet which he has always maintained and then in the next breath maintain that he accepts the conclusion of the warren commission which is impossible according to the warren commission to accept um but the shocking phenomena is you will see the president's head driven backwards as if by a pile driver from the fatal shot and you will hear dan rather announce that his head is driven forward and that has been the position all along and it creates something amounting to schizophrenia in the viewer to see one thing and hear another not because dan rather's ethos is overwhelming but because that is the official position that official position came out of the control room in the white house within an hour of the assassination lee harvey oswald's entire background was on the wire services around the world within the hour and the one lone assassin three bullet theory was solidifying within the first 12 hours it had not solidified to the extent that rather could still had to report that connelly was hit separately that later was changed of course i don't think rather is a conspirator i think though you see the fantastic power of the state to intimidate us to make a censor ourselves as one witness finally told the warren commission when asked how many bullets he heard he replied i heard one more of them was fired

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so much from masochistic paralysis [Music] but we are all in a way a part of the silence to varying degrees and therefore we do right to be shocked by this you will now see the zapruder film [Applause] he drove off 35 yards on the face of the building better than unity had just put his right hand up to the side of his right eye [Applause] very clearly [Applause]

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[Applause] in president kennedy there was no doubt there is him when power was considerable mrs kennedy stood and made them drew herself out of relaxing the car out [Applause] the secret service man leaned over put his hands on her shoulders and shoved her back into the car facing the service man and [Applause] it is very clear that the president was hit before the car was hit and the mustang [Applause] empowered with considerable violence [Applause] no doubt there well i think that's the metaphor both the violence and the distortion that characterizes the nineteen sixties when war became peace with honor when systematic assassination became pacification when police state tyranny became democracy um mrs kennedy in a clear film of this remember this film was suppressed of course they dare not be shown to the american people mrs kennedy is covered with blood and

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mrs kennedy is covered with blood and brain matter as are the two motorcycle policemen riding to the left rear the reason she crawls up on the trunk uh which you can see in a clear film is to retrieve the president's brain and skull which is on the trunk of the car of course the car was immediately taken back to detroit it was destroyed was no uh forensic analysis ever made or the clothing or of anything there was never any autopsy and dr cyril wecht the coroner of allegheny county pittsburgh uh head of the forensic medicine at dusken university who gained permission to go into the archives last year discovered that the president's brain was missing that was again in the new york times uh on november 22 of this year the brain from which he could have determined finally from which direction the bullets came but he saw enough to declare that there's a conspiracy though photographs and x-rays are also missing but it doesn't matter that those things are missing when we demand uh of our representatives and our in our various ways uh that the archives be

open because just as in the case of the missing tapes the uh blood-red footprints will lead to the bottom of the conspiracy in the end to the top i should say and um so i take that dele plaza event as a metaphor i think there is a further irony which makes it a hegelian tragedy that the very men pulling the triggers in dealey plaza the laundered money that they used the cia spymasters who were running the teams were all men who just two years before had been brought together as an assassination team to kill another president of state fidel castro and run by the white house and after the terrible humiliation that player geron and after kennedy saw that he'd been had

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and after kennedy saw that he'd been had in his attempt to substitute green beret special forces and intelligence for the brinksmanship of the fifties and he tried to take apart the cia and he tried to stop these suicidal adventures of imperialism men who now considered him the great betrayer who had aborted their efforts to assassinate castro came back to haunt him at delhi plaza and that's the final reason in my opinion that robert kennedy the attorney general and the kennedy family could never press for a real investigation because it would of course have disgraced the admit their administration as well as perhaps exposing the conspiracy um well laws of physics haven't changed in 10 years and while there is some new information i think the structural violence of the 1960s is important to consider i i think before going into that i should give the last piece of new material to you lee harvey oswald was interviewed in on radio and television the summer of 1963 as part of an attempt to create a communist or left-wing cover for him against the day of the assassination he was interviewed by a man named edward butler the head of a group called information council of the americas inca which is a private intelligence complex he later went to work for the schick intelligence operation apparatus in uh in southern california student newspapers uh groups like you young americans for freedom and so forth and he later became an aide to charles colson uh in the planning of the hard hat attack the violent attack on the peace demonstrators in new york city that you may remember so there is one of the personnel links between dallas and the watergate so butler has some guests on and one of the guests is questioning lee harvey oswald

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guests is questioning lee harvey oswald who by the way was an extremely articulate shrewd even glib um talker the worst kind of witness for a conspiracy and he is speaking easily effortlessly sounds like an associate professor of something or other and suddenly he's asked this question of how he supported himself in the soviet union and he begins to stutter and then you will hear the slip of the other members of your organization so you are the faith of the fair play for cuba committee in new orleans therefore anybody who might be interested in starting unless you know more about you for this reason i'm curious to know just how you supported yourself during the three years that you lived in the soviet union did you have a government subsidy uh well as i uh well i will answer that ques uh that uh question directly then uh since uh uh you will not rest until you get your answer uh i worked in russia uh i was under uh the protection of the uh of the uh i was that is that was not under the protection of the american government but that is i was at all times uh considered an american citizen when that was transcribed into the warren commission report it read i was not under the protection of the american government the warren commission tells us in the preface that the testimony of witnesses has been edited for clarity so much for the opinion of our government for us now i want to speak about the secret government forces behind these events of our this last period and indeed the quarter century of the cold war would be the broader frame of history but just this decade my secret government i i don't mean a

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my secret government i i don't mean a power elite exactly i certainly don't mean some illuminati or wise men of zion or wall street gang or any melodramatic group of men sitting in a room somewhere although that uh takes place i mean uh a secret government of that's a process a dynamic and changing phenomena that is endemic to our kind of democracy with its official elected government its rhetorical rights declaration of

independence bill of rights constitution the superstructure of rights under democratic prerogatives and depending on the industrial state of the nation the infrastructure of corporate power and interests which changes the civil war the agrarian forces versus the northern industrial forces fought a a battle to the finish while the superstructure question of manu mission and of slavery occupied the rhetorical arena so that the cuban patriots when not off on cia adventures are involved in organized vice they come out of the organized vice of havana and organized crime has an ideology and it is anti-communist and it works with intelligence and each has their aims and their ends in the same way that in indochina the opium from the golden triangle is run by the kumantang and the various tyrant client states that we call the free nations of that area of the world cia cargo planes carry the opium which is changed into heroin which is shot into veins in new york and san francisco

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into veins in new york and san francisco the huge profits of which are laundered through the organized crime conduits and reinvested again into electronics firms aerospace industry and military-industrial complex so is it organized crime or is it anti-communist intelligence or is it war industry jack ruby is organized crime but he's also running guns out of the dallas area to the cia training camps and to the anti-castro counter-insurgency brigades david ferry lee harvey oswald's babysitter to use a phrase in new orleans is a minuteman a bodyguard for carlos marcello a organized crime kingpin in new orleans and a long-time cia contract agent so is he a right winger or is he organized crime or is he intelligence there were minute men involved in dallas in the assassination as there were in the assassination of martin luther king and there are organized crime elements and when i say organized crime i mean the teamsters union and corrupt unions and uh and there are anti-castro cubans and there are emigre fanatics but what holds them together intelligence intelligence is the glue gives the money gives the weapons gives the plans and the direction and the cover story and provides the protection in the aftermath intelligence out of control elements of the cia all through the sixties never mind what's called back dating the fact that the cia sanitized its record in the pentagon papers or in books like the brightest and the best had we used nuclear weapons and won some kind of uh a victory in southeast asia you can be sure they would have produced cables uh predicting all along from the 50s that we would win instead of the ones they produced that we would lose when it became clear that we had lost so nevermind the back dating um now

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those components can be identified in dallas for those who you who've read the non-fiction novel executive action you know that we do identify we make composite figures of the conspirators except for one who's only thinly disguised and you see that for example organized crime bought a bankrupt small electronics firm poured laundered money into it it cannibalized other electronics firms became a giant aerospace consortium general dynamics dependent 100 percent on war contracts its biggest contract called the tfx airplane being produced by its dallas and southwestern subsidiaries a leak that corruption and cost overruns were so massive as to threaten the entire stability of the military-industrial complex the tfx investigation begins the assassination one week later the tfx investigation is dropped well what is general dynamics is it aerospace is it organized crime is it intelligence they all merge as in watergate hunt liddy all the others worked under the cover of narcotics control nothing but an intelligence front for political repression now e howard hunt was in mexico at the same time lee harvey oswald was frank sturgis the cia sharp shooter came forward one week after the assassination to help lay the cover that lee harvey oswald was a communist saying he'd been seen meeting in miami with castro agents and so forth oswald hadn't been to miami and sturgis disappeared and the story

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disappeared and the story came to nothing because the public didn't demand it the one lone nut theory was accepted but just behind that theory was another revetment if you didn't accept a one loan assassin then it was a communist conspiracy fair play for cuba oswald was a defector to the soviet union and which you've

just heard him make a slip of the tongue about if you don't accept the communist conspiracy then it's a minuteman conspiracy because david ferry guy banister and all of those who worked out of the private detective agency in new orleans which was a cia safe house and served as a minuteman hangout and a an and a cia conduit for material and guns to the lake pontchartrain training camps for the uh counter-revolutionary guerrillas and to the caribbean new orleans being the base of operations for intelligence for the caribbean as dallas is for the eastern european intelligence community well then lee harvey oswald's fair play for cuba committee office was in this minuteman cia safe house any good investigative reporter would have found that out in two hours there was no fair play for cuba committee hired two men from unemployment for two dollars an hour to pass out leaflets he only consorted with minuteman and cia contract agents and oil petrochemical and cia contracts in the dallas area he didn't know any leftists he was never seen with any so there was the minuteman revetment and or the organized crime revetment and finally had there been a national uproar as in watergate in the end the information would have been given up that lee harvey oswald was ashamed to say an informant for the fbi s-172 and the fbi would have been shaken to its foundations and hoover would have been disgraced and the nation would have trembled but we would have survived and pulled together but never would what the white house likes to call the bottom line have been exposed

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bottom line have been exposed no you've heard charles colson the president's aide described as liaison to groups that was his job description you heard mr halderman say that on television liaison to what groups teamsters organized crime carl mcintyre american security council liberty lobby neo-nazi neo-fascist elements to the ethnic communities in the eastern cities with their chains of newspapers many of them run by former war criminals to itt to um the milk lobby to special interests in general and it's colson who arranged for san diego and what was planned for san diego was black and chicano arjun provocateur posing as leftists causing violence in the street using explosives and former minutemen in a group called the secret army organization an underground paramilitary unit in san diego run by a terrorist named howard barry godfrey and jean provocateur for the fbi that was to be the right they were to kidnap the radicals follow the liddy plan control air-to-ground communications send a radar-controlled plane full of explosives at air force one in a simulated or bogus assassination attempt the right and the left shooting at each other the center collapses as in greece a classic intelligence scenario when the political operatives of watergate operation gemstone began to get the intelligence flow coming from their own provocateurs they said we must move to miami and the paramilitary wing of operation gemstone as opposed to the southern california old boy gang of erlichmann haldam and the magruder types the dean types but the hardliners colson hunt liddy

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the hardliners colson hunt liddy the cubans and others they could not of course say that's what we want is violence so they were to move to miami and who were to be the leftists in miami well william lemmer has testified provocateurs imposing as vietnam veterans against the war moving on delegates to the convention with automatic weapons that's the left and the right of course anti-castro cuban exiles so again the model is extrapolated from san diego to miami but when the men are arrested at watergate it's all aborted it comes to nothing but that's the bottom line same kind of intelligence scenario some of the same personnel in hunt and sturgis and cubans and the same kind of paramilitary intelligence control as opposed to the red squad police types you lasso its caulfield who are snooping on people blackmailing people but who shrink from burning down the brookings institution or kidnapping radicals for that you need the pair of military hard-liners hunt liddy the others and they're moved in and the hard-liners the paramilitary as always takes over the political whether it be vietnam or whether it be washington nixon in his moral idiocy created a climate where anything went and the hardliners who had in mind far more than four more years moved in inexorably taking over the politicals and taking control of operation gemstone and after the violence in vain would nixon and mitchell have said we didn't intend you to do that as nixon said he didn't intend eagle crow to break in to ellsberg's psychiatrist's office but he told him to leave no stone unturned in finding out about ellsberg they would have said we didn't intend you to do that and hunt and the others who would have been invisible if they hadn't

been arrested no we'll never know them or heard of them they're clandestine deep cover operatives they would have said too bad you gave us the money you signed on and they would have only had to pick up a telephone to bring down the administration

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the administration they would have had them like that absolute control and that is why after george wallace was shot out of the election and nixon was running 20 to 30 points ahead in the polls that is why the conspiracy did not miss a beat it was not stupidity they didn't need it anymore for nixon's reelection four more years of electoral power with checks and balances but they did need something for what amounts to a coup de man a seizure of power from within the penetrating of the bureaucracy down to the third and fourth levels faa ntsb fbi cia secret service irs agriculture health oeo oeo was being turned into nothing but an intelligence operation for the barrios and ghettos phillips from young americans for freedom an intelligence front set up in the early 60s by e howard hunt william f buckley charles coulson and others to be pitted against sds tom charles houston to be the opposite number of tom hayden vietnam the the remember viva victory in vietnam which became cosmeticized as voices in vital america remember the veterans for the peace with honor all of the intelligence fronts the biggest of which became the committee to reelect the president nothing but an intelligence front to coalesce and bring together the weapon of organized crime war industry and the elements of propaganda that were needed now in each case the cover-up turns on it being an aberration at watergate four clowns a circus tramps a prank a third-rate burglary you remember that you remember that official executive investigation which is just like the warren commission lee harvey oswald the lone nut arthur bremmer with his um the

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arthur bremmer with his um the unemployed janitor's assistant who spent seventy five hundred dollars in 1972 alone the phone call from coulson to hunt to break into bremer's apartment in milwaukee to see if he could find any left-wing literature huntsey didn't have time to get there but nonetheless a copy of the black panther party newspaper and angela davis literature was discovered in bremer's apartment uh these are not aberrations any more than me lie we know now that leaflets were dropped countless times places like me lie song me that entire area in order to terrorize the countryside that the orders came down from above that it was systematic that it was persistent that extended over time that it was part of operation phoenix the author of which is now the director of the central intelligence agency so much for automatic reform coming out of watergate and that the lieutenant callies like the lee harvey oswalds simply followed orders and the general peers the peers commission was not an army cover-up as seymour hirsch argued in the new york times but an intelligence cover-up piers is cia not army though he's a general i think that to grapple with this systematic and organized violence it is necessary to see the pattern to understand the inevitability of secret government in what we can call a bourgeois democracy an infrastructure that constantly and always and must by the imperatives and dynamics of industrial development undermine the superstructure of rhetorical rights and privileges and that a cover-up in 63

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and that a cover-up in 63 has the aim of maintaining the status quo ante of keeping the country from coming apart just as the investigation in 1973 has exactly the same aim of restoring the status quo ante if cover-up is called for then cover-up if investigation is called for the investigation but the aim is to restoration of the status quo and not our right to know and not our need to know and that is why the watergate investigation stops and will always stop short of violence short of the coup plans and i think that those of us who simply enjoy watching the spectacle on television are deluding ourselves and that we are nothing more than foolish spectators at a circus for caligula because as you remember at the end of the mccarthy period when we had investigations ventilation scandals exposures reforms the word mccarthyism became a byword for left right and center it would never happen again it could never happen again and within one generation we had watergate and what is to say that within one generation we will not have something as much beyond

watergate as watergate was beyond mccarthyism there is nothing automatic power simply changes hands it changed in april the government fell in april it has fallen the kennedy circle sometimes called the yankees the doves those interested in protecting the dollar they have taken power away from those sometimes called the cowboys the hardliners the cold warriors the new money as opposed to the old money power has passed why we while we like the um figures in julius caesar are we petty mortals peep about beneath the huge legs of the colossus of the state we have this moment of maneuverability as the secret government is being exposed unless we seize the time and move into

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unless we seize the time and move into that vacuum none of that power is going to accrue to us and we are no better off than before except for a change of style and so objectively the time is now as never before the american public is sound they rejected the warren commission from the beginning the media frightened them paralyzed them they got conflicting messages daily from all the big media it drove them mad and that's why they appeared apathetic and cynical about the pentagon papers while the intellectuals and liberals were shocked but what did the man and woman in the street to be shocked about he'd seen it all acted out in the way he could understand it at dealey plaza and the ambassador ballroom and the memphis tennessee uh motel he saw it in the the the flesh and blood that bled through the official abstractions and mythology but he didn't have an anti-mythology offered him the movement the left for the most part except for the black panther party and certain elements of black liberation who had taken up the issue of malcolm x assassination and therefore provided a perspective for the assassinations and so when martin luther king was assassinated the pattern was already part of the vocabulary of the agitation of the black panther party and the black liberation movement except for that element the left was totally paralyzed why because oswald's communist cover had worked there was the fear of a red scare a red purge as never before what if there was a conspiracy as lyndon johnson said at the end finally in the uttermost of cynicism in an interview with walter cronkite where the the words were censored but published after his death he said it was a conspiracy oswald never acted alone but of course he implied he said i found a murder incorporated being run in the caribbean by the white house when i came in he said and therefore castro took his revenge in dallas well he was wrong on two points the murder incorporated was now

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the murder incorporated was now operating independently of kennedy and it was that same murder incorporated made up not a pro castro but of anti-castro cubans that is as lump and proletariat trigger men at the bottom who surfaced at dele plaza so there was this admission of a conspiracy now liberals the left couldn't face it though now i think it's swept over everyone but the leadership as i say of the media and the academy and the moment was lost the man and woman in the street were left undefended no one's speaking for them you cannot understand the american people if you do not understand the meaning of this assassination in the national psyche in 1963 which they watched for 48 hours on television together with the jack ruby footnote it was literally programmed into them an entire population watched television for 48 hours and got conflicting messages steadily that was their pentagon papers that was their white house horrors that liberals eventually came to appreciate so it isn't cynicism and apathy it's fear that's what it is fear with its defenses of what cynicism apathy and the intellectuals boredom disinterest depending on class once you understand that you understand the fear of the new york times and time magazine and others when they insist the great danger is the public will think that all politicians are corrupt and that this is just a little worse and

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and that this is just a little worse and they must not think that it must be seen as an aberration but you see the public is sound because they've become isolationist they hated the anti-war movement but they finally hated the war more and they became isolationist much to the contempt of the liberal establishment but what is isolationism isolationism for the man and the woman in the street is anti-imperialism that's what it is but

that's their way of seeing it these assassinations of their way of understanding official state violence rather than dust capital and we have to address ourselves to this because the gallup poll which dared not run a poll on acceptance of the warren commission on the 10th anniversary of the assassination dared not run it because it would have scandalized and humiliated the big media to show 98 or 99 percent of the american public rejecting the warren commission which the media must defend at all costs lest they be lumped with the nuts and buffs and scavengers that they derided for so long but they took a poll you read about confidence in the government and said gallup choosing his words carefully not since the assassinations of the sixties has confidence been lower not since the assassinations of the sixties a very shrewd conscious or pre-conscious choice of words and we have to grapple with this these atavistic violent images that are part of the american nightmare and from which we cannot wake up despite the fact that when we may be educated until we can confront it and demand a quick accounting not on who pulled the trigger and who's going to jail but an accounting of why we have been shown forged and doctored infantile

[00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JmUu_dGM-A&t=3120s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JmUu_dGM-A&t=3120s)

shown forged and doctored infantile evidence for the assassinations for the war for watergate and now for the energy robbery that these are somehow aberrations that come from elsewhere for which we are supposed to feel guilty about whether it be the assassinations or the war or the energy crisis so renunciations that we are supposed to make in order to anneal these terrific psychic blows we are not so free of this guilt on this masochistic passivity to use bethlehem's phrase in a sane way and i think that uh the understanding of the linkage between war industry organized crime corrupt unions and the intelligence fronts and propaganda fronts is something that we can understand if we will and something the american people can understand too and i think we have to deputize ourselves as people who can read and write who are educated and we have to do it because the state is not going to do it the state is the author of the cover-up and elements of the state who are out of control are the author of the violence in the first place and it is up to us in the words of jean-paul mara to pull ourselves up by our hair turn ourselves inside out and paraphrasing learn to see ourselves the world and the state with new eyes thanks very much [Music] [Applause] [Music] you

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